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Youth court statistics in Canada, 2014/2015

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.. not available for a specific reference period
... not applicable
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0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Youth court statistics in Canada, 2014/2015

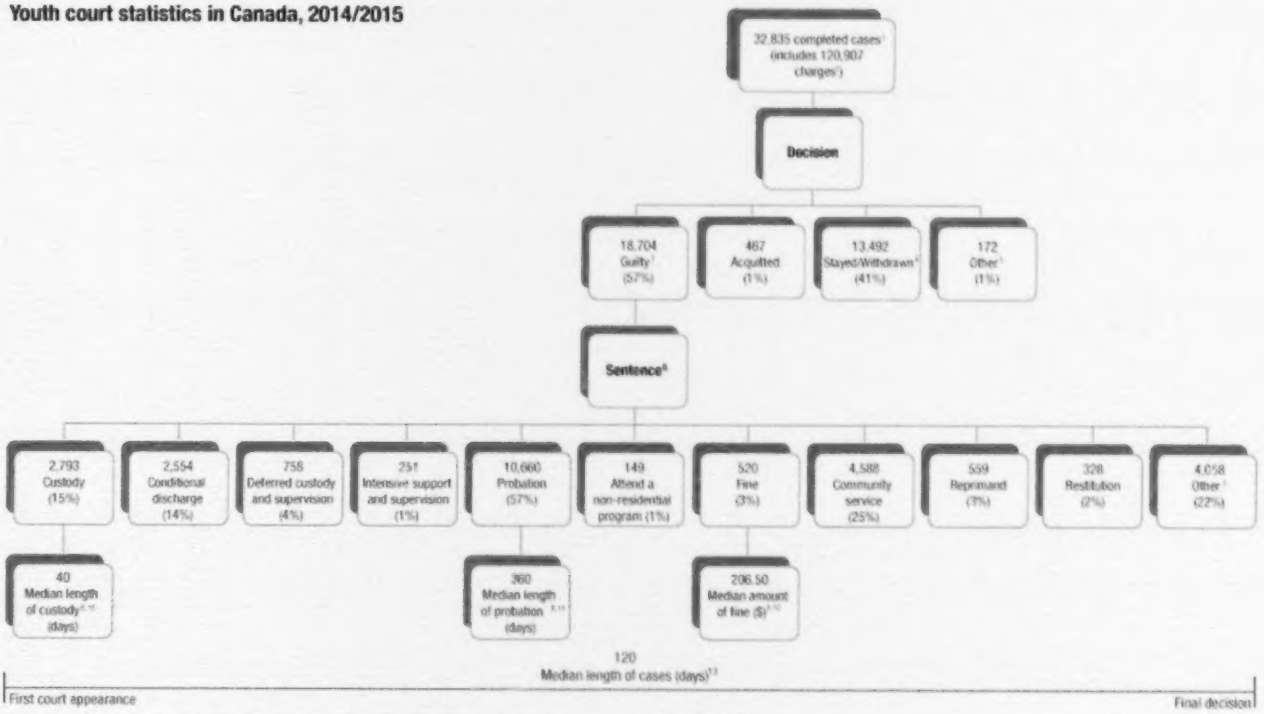
by Zoran Miladinovic

In Canada, youth aged 12 to 17 years accused of a crime are processed through youth courts.[1] Youth courts operate under the provisions of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (*YCJA*) separate from adult criminal courts. The *YCJA* preamble contains significant statements from Parliament about the values upon which the legislation is based. One of these statements mentions that accurate information about youth crime, the youth justice system, and effective measures should be publicly available (Department of Justice Canada 2013). Statistics from court administrative databases represent a useful information source in monitoring the effectiveness of the youth court system.

Using data from the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS), this article presents information on youth court cases completed in Canada in 2014/2015. It highlights key youth court indicators such as the number of completed charges and cases, case decisions, sentencing outcomes, and case processing times. This article also presents trends over time and some characteristics of youth who appear in court.

Completed youth court cases in 2014/2015 at a glance

Youth court statistics in Canada, 2014/2015



1. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.
2. A charge refers to a formal accusation against an accused person or company involving a federal statute offence that has been processed by the courts and received a final decision.
3. Guilty findings include guilty of the offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. Also includes guilty pleas, and cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.
4. Includes stays, withdrawals, dismissals and discharges at preliminary inquiry as well as court referrals to alternative or extrajudicial measures.
5. Includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible and waived out of province or territory. Also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases that raise *Charter* arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.
6. Cases may involve more than one type of sentence, therefore, percentages do not total 100%.
7. "Other" sentences include, for example, absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, and pay purchases, as well as other court imposed conditions such as apologies and essays.
8. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer sentence lengths and half had shorter sentence lengths.
9. The median is the point at which half of all cases had higher fine amounts and half had lower fine amounts.
10. Custodial sentence lengths exclude time spent in custody prior to sentencing and/or the amount of credit awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. Excludes cases in which the length of the custody sentence was unknown or indeterminate. Length of custody data are not available for Manitoba data as of 2005/2006.
11. Data exclude cases in which the length of the probation sentence was unknown. Length of probation data are not available for Manitoba data as of 2005/2006.
12. Data exclude cases in which the amount of the fine was unknown. Amount of fine data are not available for Manitoba data as of 2005/2006.
13. Case lengths are calculated based on the number of days it takes to complete a case, from first appearance to final decision. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer case lengths and half had shorter case lengths.

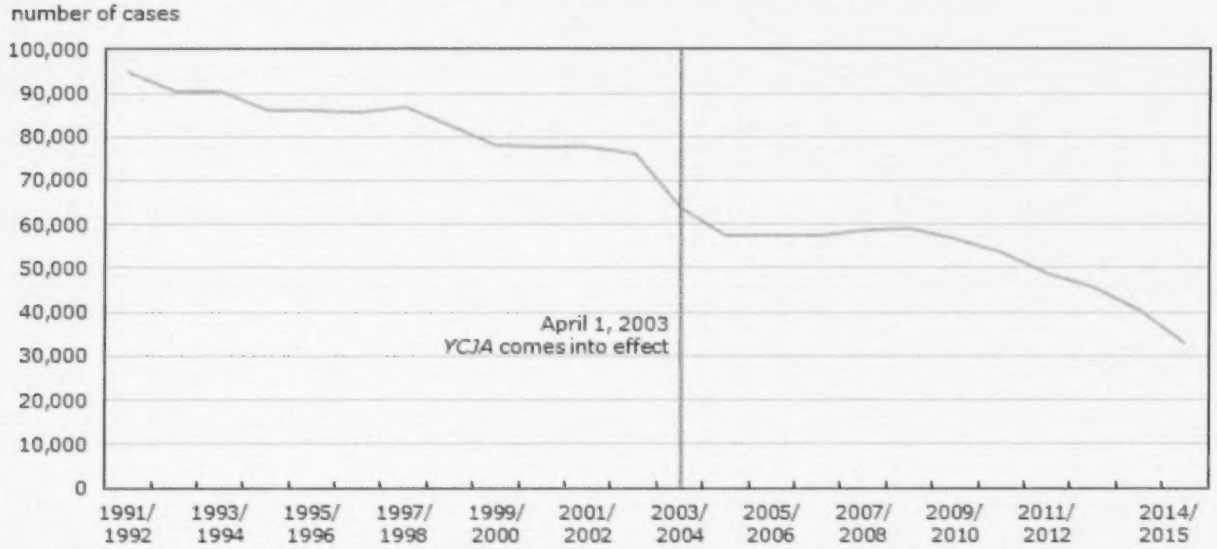
Note: For youth sentences, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* stipulates a maximum fine of $1,000.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Decrease in completed cases in youth court in 2014/2015

- In 2014/2015, Canada's youth courts completed 32,835 cases involving 120,907 charges related to *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences, including offences related to the *YCJA* (Table 1). The number of completed youth court cases declined by 19% from the previous year, which represents the sixth consecutive annual decline, as well as the lowest number of completed youth court cases since these data were first collected by Statistics Canada in 1991/1992 (Chart 1).

- Decreases in the number of completed youth court cases occurred in all provinces and territories, with the exception of Nova Scotia, which reported a 2% increase. Ontario, which reported the largest number of youth cases among the provinces and territories, had the largest absolute decrease in the number of cases (-3,340). This corresponds to 23% fewer completed youth cases in 2014/2015 compared to the previous year in Ontario. The Northwest Territories reported the largest percentage decline in the country, with a 40% decrease in the number of completed youth cases. Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta reported the next largest decrease (-29% each) from the previous year (Table 2).[2]

Chart 1
Cases completed in youth court, Canada, 1991/1992 to 2014/2015



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Almost all types of completed youth court cases decreased in 2014/2015

- Most youth court cases in 2014/2015 involved non-violent offences, representing 70% of all completed cases.[3] This trend has been consistent over time, and reflects what is also seen in police-reported youth crime statistics where most criminal offences are non-violent (Allen and Superle 2016).

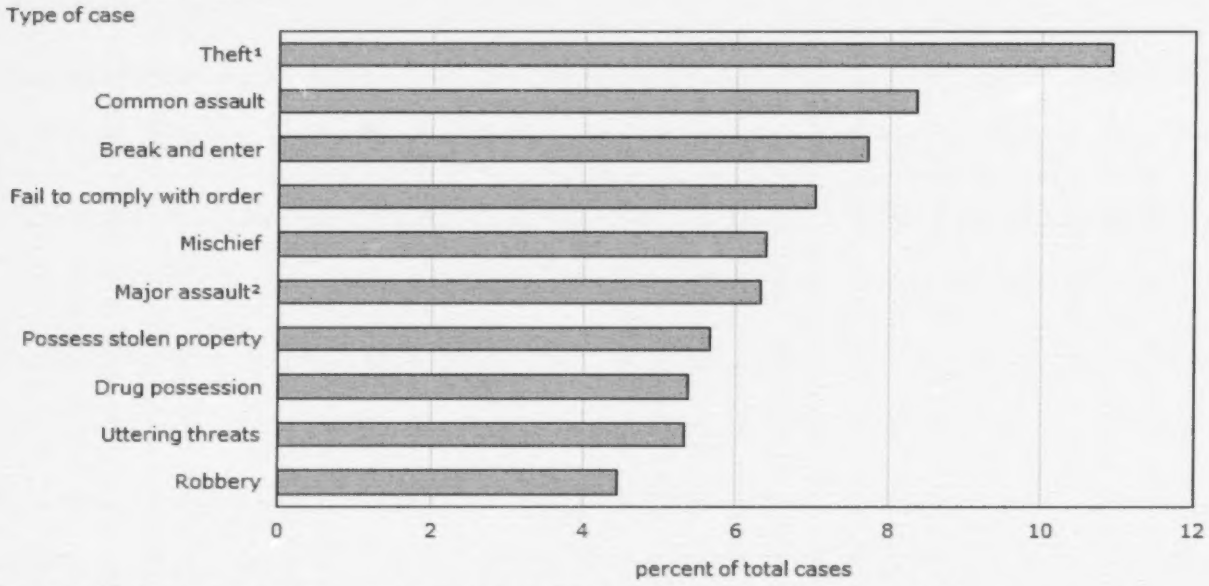
- There was a decrease in the number of youth court cases for almost all offence types in 2014/2015 compared with 2013/2014 (Table 3). Property offences had the largest absolute decline (-2,791), followed by violent offences (-2,140), and administration of justice offences (-816). Proportionally, property offences had the largest decline (-21%), followed by administration of justice offences (-19%) and violent offences (-18%).

- Five *Criminal Code* offence types made up 40% of all completed cases in youth court. These five offences were: theft (11%),[4] common assault (8%), break and enter (8%), failure to comply with an order (7%), and mischief (6%) (Chart 2).These five offences have been the most frequent offence types in youth court cases for the past decade.

- Among individual offences, the largest decreases in the number of completed cases were observed for theft (-1,106), common assault (-894), and break and enter (-616). The largest proportional decreases were observed for breach of probation (-31%), disturbing the peace (-29%), and other crimes against persons (-25%).

- Only two offences showed an increase in the number of completed cases in 2014/2015: prostitution (+5) and attempted murder (+2), but combined these offences represented less than 1% of completed youth court cases for the year.

Chart 2
Ten common offences for cases completed in youth court, Canada, 2014/2015



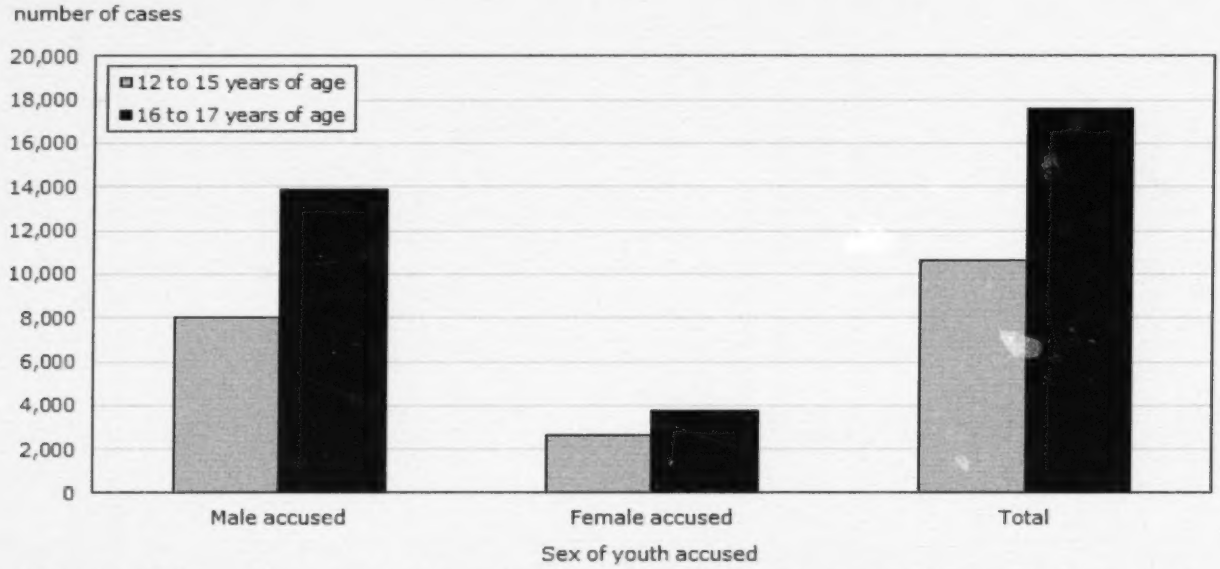
1. Includes, for example, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 or under, as well as motor vehicle theft.
2. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Three-quarters of accused in youth court cases are male

- In 2014/2015, more than three-quarters of accused persons in youth court cases were male (77%) (Chart 3). The proportion of youth accused that are male has consistently ranged between 77 to 78% for the past fifteen years; it decreased from a high of 82% in 1991/1992, the first year for which data are available. Although females accounted for 23% of cases overall, they had a higher representation in cases involving non-violent offences, with prostitution (44%) and failure to appear (39%) the most common offence types among female youth accused. Cases with the lowest representation of females as accused were those involving sexual assault (3%) and other sexual offences (4%).

- Generally, individuals accused of having committed an offence when aged 16 to 17 years old, regardless of sex, made up the largest proportion of accused in youth court in 2014/2015 (63% of male youth accused and 59% of female youth accused). There were, however, some exceptions among particular offence types. For example, males accused of having committed an offence when aged 12 to 15 years old represented a higher proportion of accused for sexual assault and other sexual offences (61% and 65%, respectively) in comparison to their 16 to 17 year old counterparts. Among females, 12- to 15-year-olds were also more often accused of sexual assault and other sexual offences (71% of females accused of each of these offences) compared to their 16 to 17 year old counterparts (Table 4).

Chart 3
Cases completed in youth court, by sex and age group of the accused, Canada, 2014/2015



Note: Includes information on accused persons aged 12 to 17 years of age at the time of the offence. Excludes cases in which the age and/or the sex of the accused was unknown. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Information on the sex of the accused is not available from Manitoba as of 2005/2006.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

More than half of completed youth cases result in guilty finding

- In 2014/2015, 57% of youth court cases resulted in a guilty finding, a disposition which includes both guilty pleas as well as findings of guilt by the courts. The proportion of guilty cases in youth court has been decreasing slowly over time, from a high of about 70% in the late 1990s (Chart 4).

- Acquittals are infrequent in youth court cases, accounting for slightly more than 1% of cases in 2014/2015 and this proportion has remained stable since data collection began in 1991/1992.

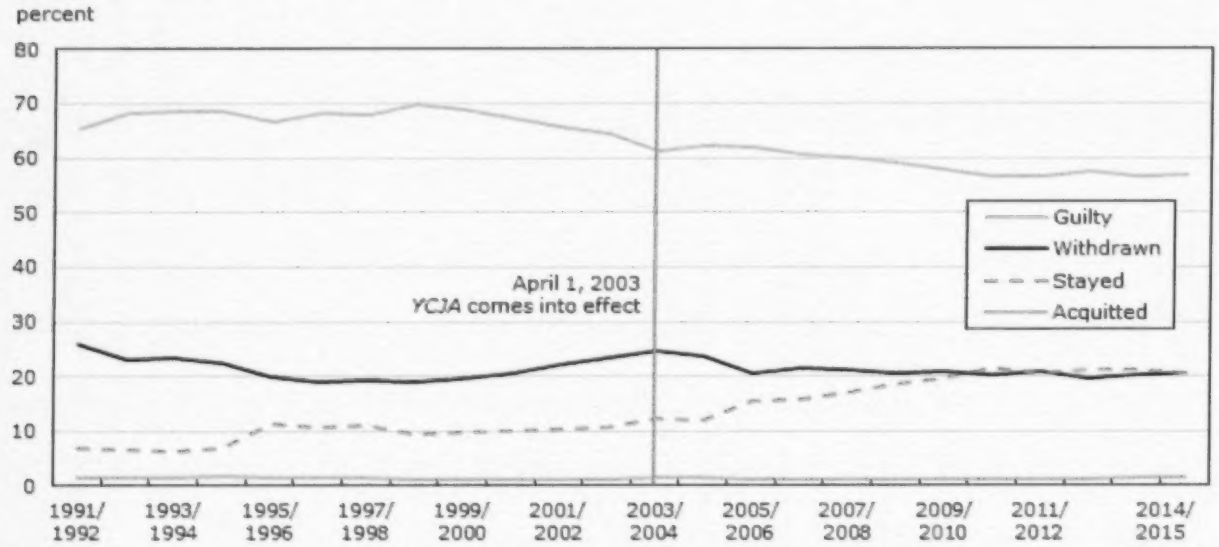
- Stays accounted for 20% of all cases in 2014/2015, where 3% were stayed specifically due to Crown cautions or extrajudicial sanctions[5] and 17% were stayed for other reasons. The proportion of stayed youth cases where Crown cautions or extrajudicial sanctions measures were imposed steadily increased from 2% in 2003/2004 to a peak of 8% in 2010/2011, but has since been decreasing.

- Guilty findings in youth court cases vary across the country.[6] In 2014/2015, New Brunswick reported the highest proportion of guilty findings in youth court cases at 79%. Manitoba (73%) and British Columbia (70%) reported the next highest proportions. Yukon (40%), Ontario (44%), and Saskatchewan (55%) reported the lowest proportion of guilty findings (Chart 5).

- Guilty findings also vary by type of offence. In 2014/2015, cases involving being unlawfully at large (92%) and impaired driving (83%) had the highest percentage of guilty decisions among offence types. Cases involving drug possession (38%) and failure to appear (39%) had the lowest percentage of guilty decisions (Table 5).

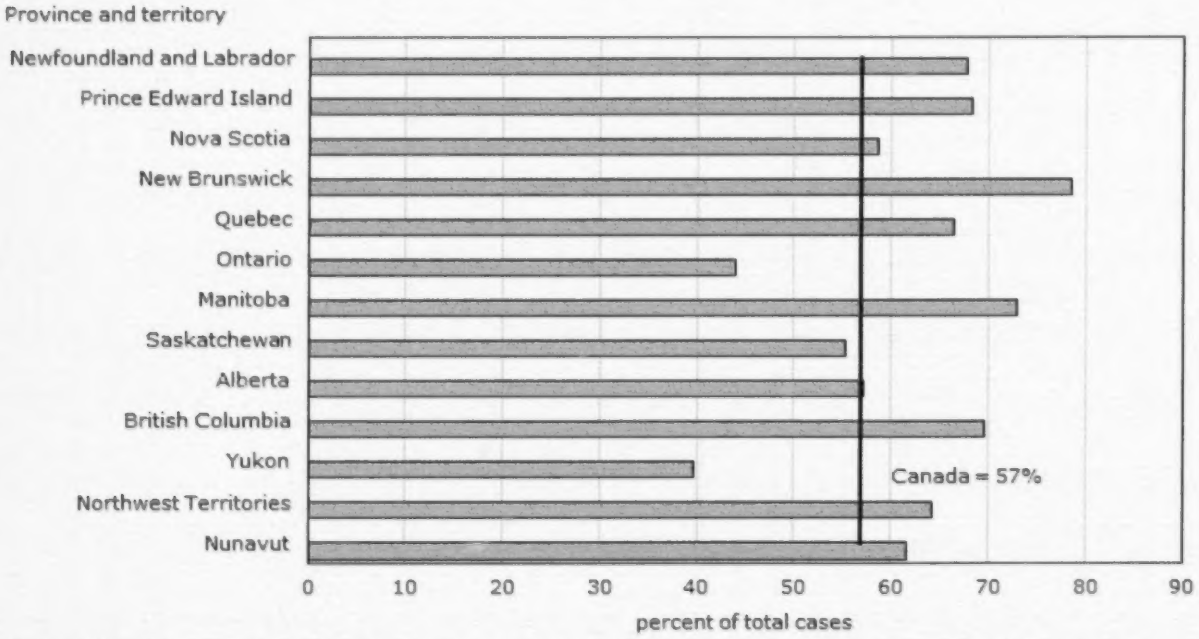
- While there has been a declining proportion of guilty cases over time, this decrease has been mirrored by an increase in stayed cases (Chart 4). This trend is seen among cases involving four of the five most common youth offences in 2014/2015: theft, common assault, break and enter, and mischief. For cases involving theft and mischief, the proportion of stayed cases has in recent years converged to approach the proportion of guilty cases. The proportion of withdrawn cases has remained fairly stable, ranging from 19% to 26% between 1991/1992 and 2014/2015 (Chart 4).

Chart 4
Cases completed in youth court, by selected type of decision, Canada, 1991/1992 to 2014/2015



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Chart 5
Guilty cases in youth court, by province and territory, 2014/2015



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

About one in seven guilty youth court cases received a custodial sentence

- In 2014/2015, custodial sentences were imposed in 15% of guilty youth court cases (Table 6). A custody sentence was most often imposed in attempted murder cases (100%) and cases involving being unlawfully at large (65%).

- The proportion of guilty cases involving homicide (including first-degree murder, second-degree murder, manslaughter, and infanticide) that received custodial sentences in 2014/2015 (47%) was substantially lower than in 2013/2014, when 81% of guilty cases received custody. It is important to note that a custodial sentence is only mandated in the case of first- or second-degree murder. The proportion of guilty homicide cases that received custody over the 10-year period from 2005/2006 to 2014/2015 has varied from a low of 32% (2008/2009) to a high of 81% (2013/2014).[7] A custodial sentence was typically the most frequent type of sentence handed down for homicide over this time period. "Other"[8] sentences were also frequently handed down, as was probation. In 2014/2015, 53% of guilty homicide cases received an "other" sentence and 20% received probation.

- In 2014/2015, the use of custody sentences was the lowest for cases involving disturbing the peace (0%) and drug possession (2%).

- Overall, the median length of a custodial sentence in 2014/2015 was 40 days.[9] The median length of custody was longest for violent offences (90 days), with attempted murder having the longest median custody length of all offences at 585 days, and shortest for cases involving administration of justice offences (20 days). About 44% of cases receiving custodial sentences had a custody length of 1 month or less in 2014/2015. Very few cases received custody sentences longer than 1 year (2%) (Chart 6).

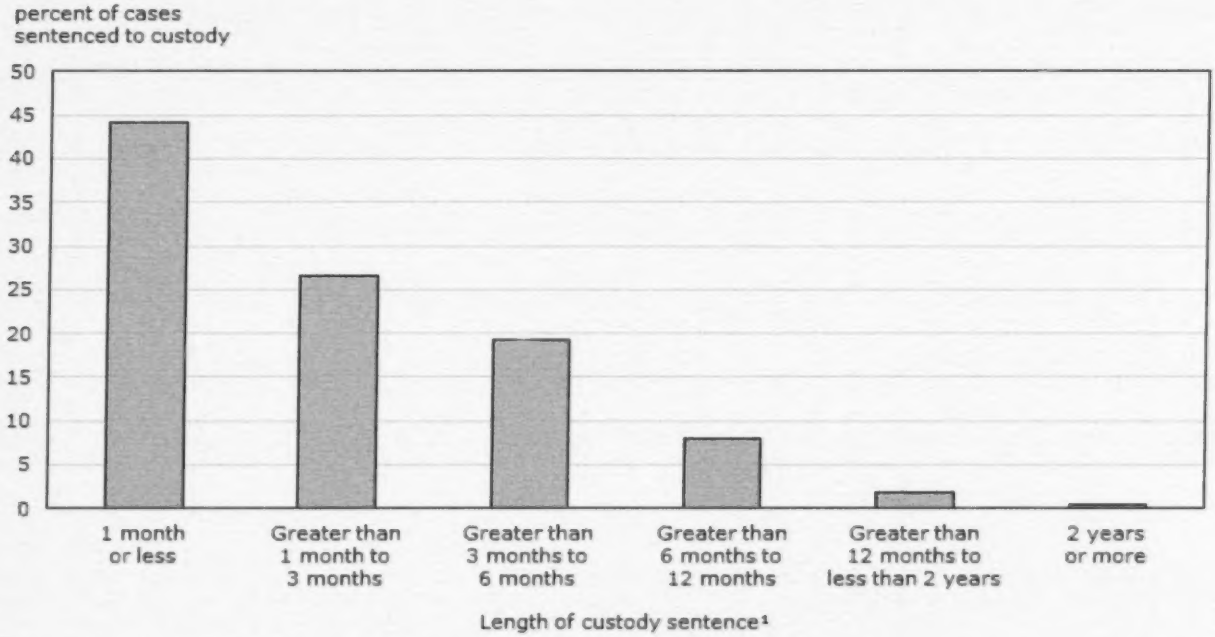
- The proportion of youth court cases sentenced to custody varies across the provinces and territories.[10] For the third consecutive year, the proportion of guilty cases with custody sentences was highest in Yukon (48%) and lowest in Quebec (9%) (Chart 7).

- For four of the five most common offences in youth court in 2014/2015 (theft, break and enter, failure to comply with an order, and mischief), the proportion of guilty cases sentenced to custody has decreased over the past ten years. For common assault, the proportion of guilty cases receiving custodial sentences has remained fairly stable. In 2014/2015, 7% of guilty cases involving common assault received a custody sentence, the lowest proportion of the five most common offences. In contrast, 16% of guilty cases involving failure to comply with an order received a custody sentence.

- Following the implementation of the *YCJA* in 2003, the proportion of youth court cases resulting in a custodial sentence decreased steadily until 2009/2010 but has been stable in recent years (Chart 8). For example, in 2002/2003, 27% of guilty youth cases received a custodial sentence; in 2003/2004, 22% of guilty youth cases received a custodial sentence, while in 2014/2015, 15% did. The deferred custody and supervision sentence, introduced in 2003 under the *YCJA*, is considered an alternative to custody. This type of sentence is served in the community under a set of strict conditions which, if violated, can result in the young person being sent to custody to serve the balance of the sentence (Department of Justice Canada 2013). The proportion of guilty cases receiving this type of sentence has increased from about 2% in 2003/2004 to about 5% in 2014/2015 (Chart 8).[11]

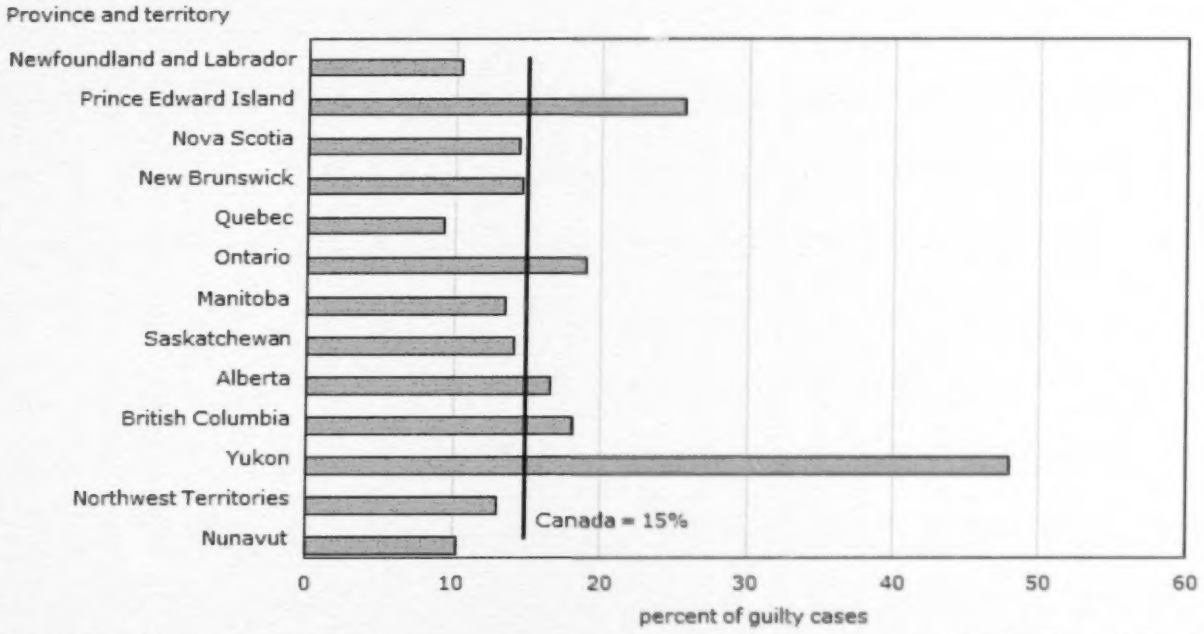
- Other sentences created with the introduction of the *YCJA* are used relatively infrequently. More specifically, intensive support and supervision[12] was ordered in about 1% of guilty youth cases in 2014/2015. Likewise, the sentence to attend a non-residential program[13] was ordered in less than 1% of guilty cases. Reprimands[14] were given somewhat more often, in 3% of guilty youth cases in 2014/2015.

Chart 6
Guilty cases in youth court, by length of custody sentence, Canada, 2014/2015



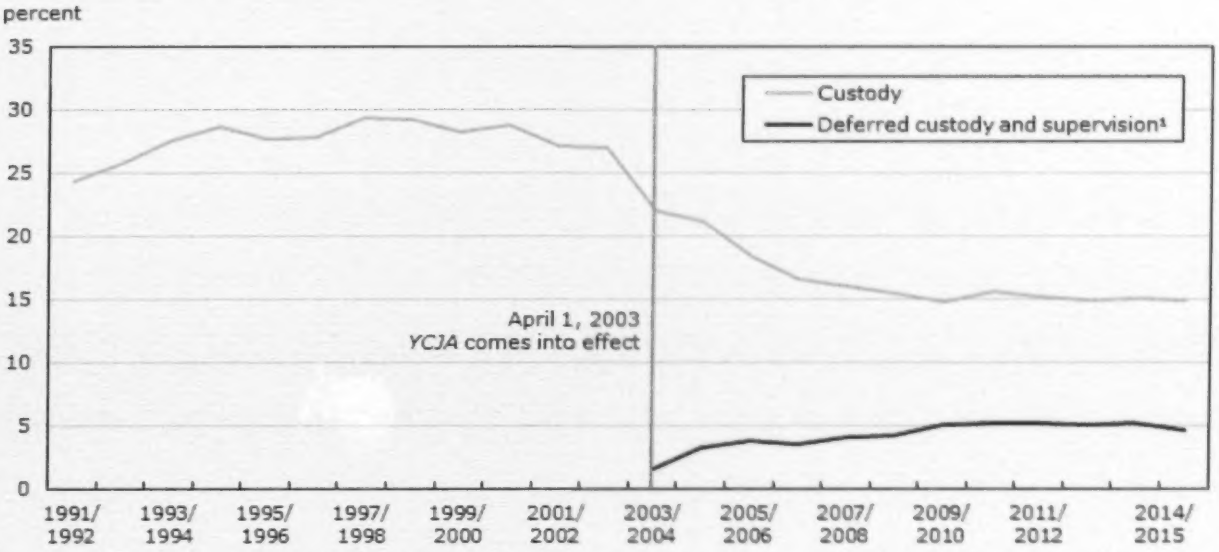
1. Length of custody data are not available for Manitoba data as of 2005/2006.
Note: Custodial sentence lengths exclude time spent in custody prior to sentencing and/or the amount of credit awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. Excludes cases in which the length of the custody sentence was unknown. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Chart 7
Guilty cases in youth court sentenced to custody, by province and territory, 2014/2015



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Chart 8
Guilty cases completed in youth court, by selected sentence, Canada, 1991/1992 to 2014/2015



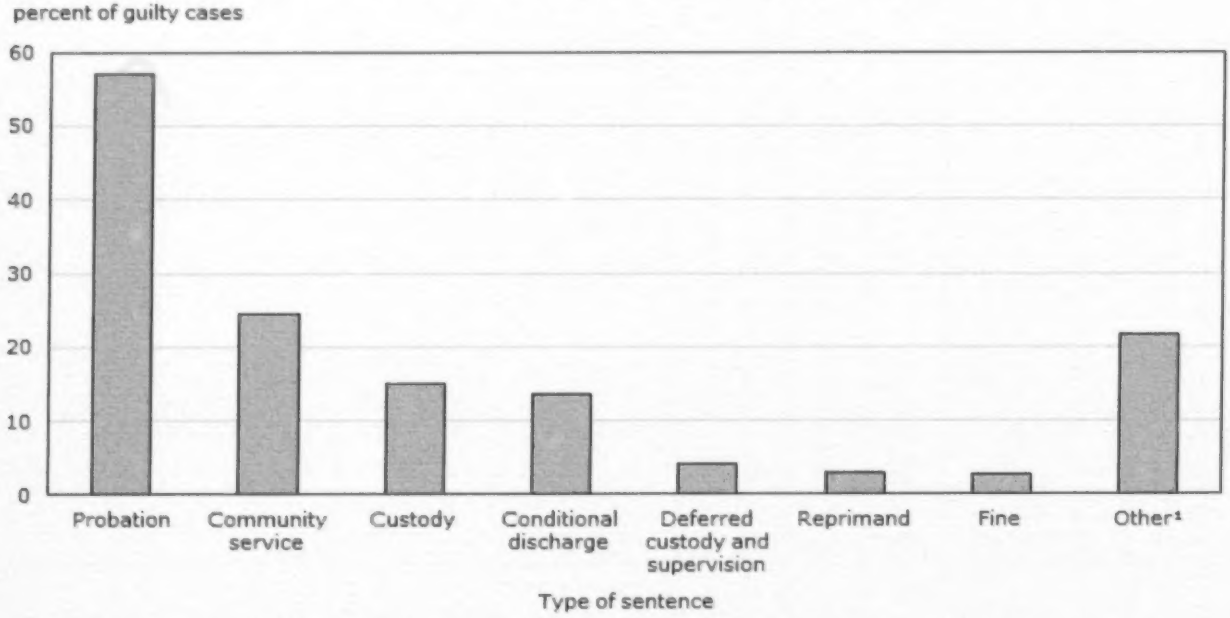
1. Deferred custody and supervision is a sentence under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (*YCJA*) effective April 1, 2003.
Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution. Deferred custody and supervision excludes Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data for certain years.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Probation remains the most common sentence imposed in youth court

- In 2014/2015, as has been the pattern since the data was first collected in 1991/1992, probation was the most common type of sentence imposed in youth court cases, either on its own or in combination with another type of sentence, at 57% of all guilty cases (Chart 9). Moreover, probation was the most serious sentence[15] in half (51%) of guilty cases in youth court in 2014/2015, a finding that has remained consistent since data collection began in 1991/1992, ranging from 43% of guilty cases in 1992/1993 to 57% in 2002/2003.

- The median length of probation in 2014/2015 was about a year (360 days) for all case types (Table 6).[16] The median length of probation was similar among cases involving violent offences, property offences, administration of justice offences, other *Criminal Code* offences, and *Criminal Code* traffic offences. Among guilty cases, the median length of probation for sexual assault cases was the longest, at 540 days.

Chart 9
Guilty cases in youth court, by type of sentence, Canada, 2014/2015



1. Includes, for example, absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, and pay purchaser, as well as other court imposed conditions such as apologies and essays.
Note: Cases may involve more than one type of sentence, therefore, percentages do not total 100%. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

One quarter of youth court cases received a community service order

- A community service order was the second most common type of sentence imposed in youth court cases (25%), either on its own or in combination with another type of sentence. These orders require a youth to perform unpaid work.

- "Other" sentences include sanctions such as absolute and conditional discharges, restitution, and compensation. Among these, a conditional discharge[17] was the most frequently ordered sentence. In 2014/2015, it was ordered in about 14% of guilty cases overall.

- Guilty cases may receive more than one sentence type. Probation is frequently associated with other sentences. Among guilty cases sentenced to custody in 2014/2015, probation was also ordered in 41% of cases. Probation was also ordered in 13% of cases receiving a fine, 14% of cases receiving a conditional sentence, and 68% of cases receiving restitution. "Other" sentences are also frequently associated with cases that receive a fine (66%), conditional sentence (50%), and restitution (100%).

Half of all youth court cases are completed within 3 months or less

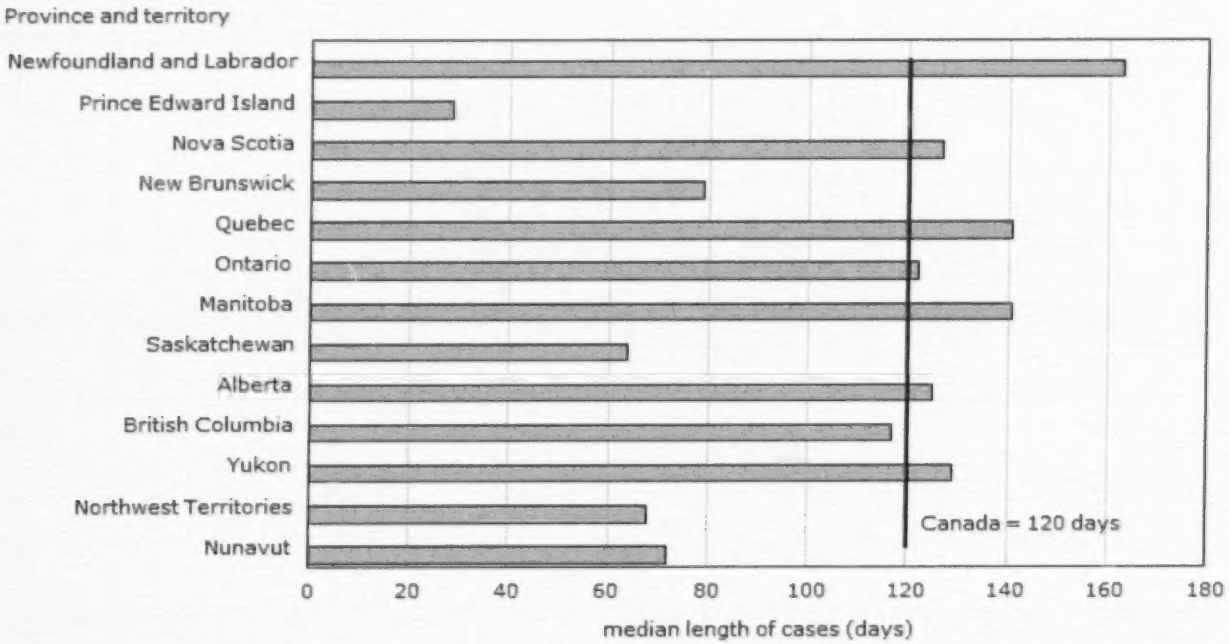
- In 2014/2015, the median length of time taken to complete a youth court case, from first appearance to final decision, was 120 days, the same as in 2013/2014. Over the past decade, the time to decision has shown an alternating trend of rising and falling. For instance, in 2005/2006 the median was 106 days, which increased to 119 days in 2008/2009. It subsequently fell to 113 days in 2010/2011, before again beginning to increase.

- In 2014/2015, Prince Edward Island had the shortest median case processing time (about 29 days) while Newfoundland and Labrador had the longest (163 days) (Chart 10).[18]

- Cases involving violent offences often take longer than others to complete (median of 169 days for violent offences in 2014/2015; 117 days for property offences, 84 days for administration of justice offences). In 2014/2015, homicide cases took the longest and were the only offence type with a median length greater than one year (420 days). The median length of time to complete homicide cases has decreased since 2013/2014, when it was reported as 611 days; however, it has generally been increasing for the last decade. Sexual assault cases followed homicide cases in length of time to complete the case (median of 260 days), followed by cases involving other sexual offences (median of 239 days) (Table 3).

- Cases involving administration of justice offences had some of the shortest median case processing times, at 84 days in 2014/2015. In particular, cases involving being unlawfully at large had the shortest median processing time among all offences at 5 days (Table 3).

Chart 10
Median length of cases completed in youth court, by province and territory, 2014/2015



Note: Case lengths are calculated based on the number of days it takes to complete a case, from first appearance to final decision. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer case lengths and half had shorter case lengths. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Survey description

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) is administered by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (Statistics Canada) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for criminal courts in Canada. The survey collects statistical information on adult and youth court cases involving *Criminal Code* and other federal statute charges. Data contained in this article represent the youth court portion of the survey. The individuals involved are persons aged 12 to 17 years (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence. All youth courts in Canada have reported data to the youth component of the survey since the 1991/1992 fiscal year.

The primary unit of analysis is a case. A case is defined as one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. A case combines all charges against the same person having one or more key overlapping dates (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, date of decision, or date of sentencing) into a single case.

A case that has more than one charge is represented by the charge with the "most serious offence" (MSO). The most serious offence is selected using the following rules. First, court decisions are considered and the charge with the "most serious decision" (MSD) is selected. Court decisions for each charge in a case are ranked from most to least serious as follows: 1) guilty, 2) guilty of a lesser offence, 3) acquitted, 4) stay of proceeding, 5) withdrawn, dismissed and discharged, 6) not criminally responsible, 7) other, and 8) transfer of court jurisdiction.

Second, in cases where two or more charges result in the same MSD (e.g., guilty), *Criminal Code* sentences are considered. The charge with the most serious offence type is selected according to an offence seriousness scale, based on actual sentences handed down by courts in Canada.[19] Each offence type is ranked by looking at (a) the proportion of guilty charges where custody was imposed and (b) the average (mean) length of custody for the specific type of offence. These values are multiplied together to arrive at the final seriousness ranking for each type of offence. If, after looking at the offence seriousness scale, two or more charges remain tied then information about the sentence type and duration of the sentence are considered (e.g., custody and length of custody, then probation and length of probation, etc.).

Cases are counted according to the fiscal year in which they are completed. Each year, the ICCS database is considered final at the end of March for the production of court statistics pertaining to the preceding fiscal year. However, these counts do not include cases that were pending an outcome at the end of the reference period. If a pending outcome is reached in the next fiscal year, then these cases are included in the completed case counts for that fiscal year. However, if a one-year period of inactivity elapses, then these cases are deemed complete and the originally published counts for the previous fiscal year are subsequently updated and reported in the next year's release of the data. Historically, updates to a previous year's counts have resulted in an increase of about 2%.

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Bala, N. 2003. *Youth Criminal Justice Law*. Toronto. Irwin Law. p. 431.

Department of Justice Canada. 2013. *The Youth Criminal Justice Act: Summary and Background*. Ottawa. (accessed May 19, 2016).

Youth Criminal Justice Act, S.C. 2002, c.1.

Notes

1. In Canada, youth courts have exclusive jurisdiction in respect of any offence alleged to have been committed by a youth aged 12 to 17 years (s. 14(1) *Youth Criminal Justice Act* 2002).

2. In general, jurisdictions with smaller completed case counts tend to see more fluctuations in year-over-year percentage changes.

3. Unless otherwise stated, youth court cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence. For further information, see the Survey description section.

4. Includes, for example, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 or under, as well as motor vehicle theft.

5. Crown cautions and extrajudicial sanctions are both forms of extrajudicial measures. They refer to measures other than judicial proceedings used to deal with young persons alleged to have committed an offence.

6. There are many factors that influence variations between jurisdictions. These may include Crown and police charging practices, offence distributions, and various forms of diversion programs. Therefore, comparisons between jurisdictions should be interpreted with caution.

7. The number of homicide cases that resulted in a guilty finding has ranged from 15 to 35 annually between 2005/2006 and 2014/2015.

8. Other sentences include, for example, absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, and conditional discharge, as well as other court imposed conditions such as apologies and essays. This category also includes deferred custody and supervision, intensive support and supervision, attendance at non-residential program and reprimand where sentencing data under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (*YCJA*) are not available.

9. The analysis of youth court cases by length of custody excludes Manitoba due to the unavailability of information. Median custodial sentence lengths exclude time spent in custody prior to sentencing and/or the amount of credit awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. Also excludes cases in which the length of custody sentence was unknown. Since custody orders under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (*YCJA*) include a mandatory period of post-custody supervision, the figures for custody include the post-custody supervision portion of the order effective April 1, 2003.

10. See note 5.

11. The analysis of youth court cases by deferred custody and supervision excludes Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data for certain years.

12. Intensive support and supervision is a non-custodial sentencing option that provides closer monitoring and support than a probation order to assist a young person in changing their behaviour.

13. An order to attend a non-residential program requires a young person to attend a program at specified times and on conditions set by the court, to a maximum of 240 hours over a period of not more than 6 months.

14. A reprimand is a stern lecture or warning from a judge. From Nicholas Bala: "A judge who imposes a reprimand is expected to discuss the offence with the youth and express disapproval of the offence and the expectation that the youth will not offend again. Some judges who are imposing a reprimand will engage the youth and perhaps the parents in a meaningful discussion, which would generally be desirable." (Bala 2003).

15. It is possible to receive more than one sentence type in relation to a guilty charge in a case. Only the most serious sentence in the case is represented. Sentence types are ranked from most to least serious as follows: Intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision; custody and supervision—first degree murder; custody and supervision—second degree murder, custody and supervision—attempted murder, manslaughter, aggravated sexual assault; custody and supervision—offence for which the punishment is imprisonment for life; custody and supervision; custody (supervision type) not specified, youth custodial sentence under the *Young Offenders Act* (*YOA*), or adult custody; conditional sentence, deferred custody and supervision; Intensive support and supervision; probation; prohibition, seizure, forfeiture; community service; personal service/compensation in kind; pay purchaser; restitution; compensation; fine; conditional discharge; absolute discharge; reprimand; and other.

16. The analysis of youth court cases by length of probation excludes Manitoba due to the unavailability of information.

17. Where an accused is found guilty of an offence, other than first or second degree murder, the court may impose a conditional discharge. The accused is then deemed not to have been convicted of the offence.

18. See note 5.

19. The offence seriousness scale is calculated using data from both the adult and youth components of the Integrated Criminal Court Survey from 2006/2007 to 2010/2011.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Charges and cases completed in youth court, Canada, 2005/2006 to 2014/2015

	Total charges[1]		Total cases[2]	
Year	number	percent change from previous year	number	percent change from previous year
2005/2006	180,585	...	57,467	...
2006/2007	185,409	2.7	57,482	0.0
2007/2008	191,194	3.1	58,710	2.1
2008/2009	194,142	1.5	58,968	0.4
2009/2010	189,494	-2.4	56,859	-3.6
2010/2011	181,835	-4.0	53,494	-5.9
2011/2012	171,264	-5.8	48,952	-8.5
2012/2013	159,702	-6.8	45,441	-7.2
2013/2014	141,560	-11.4	40,374	-11.2
2014/2015	120,907	-14.6	32,835	-18.7

... not applicable
1. A charge refers to a formal accusation against an accused person or company involving a federal statute offence that has been processed by the courts and received a final decision.
2. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 2
Cases completed in youth court, by province and territory, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015

	2013/2014		2014/2015		Percent change in number of cases 2013/2014 to 2014/2015	Difference in median length of cases 2013/2014 to 2014/2015
Province/territory	number	median length of case (days)[1]	number	median length of case (days)[1]	percent	days
Canada	**40,374**	**120**	**32,835**	**120**	**-19**	**0**
Newfoundland and Labrador	503	120	356	163	-29	43
Prince Edward Island	168	50	148	29	-12	-21
Nova Scotia	1,036	113	1,053	127	2	14
New Brunswick	768	92	651	79	-15	-13
Quebec	7,868	141	6,548	141	-17	0
Ontario	14,681	120	11,341	122	-23	2
Manitoba	3,129	148	2,667	141	-15	-7
Saskatchewan	3,782	79	3,653	64	-3	-15
Alberta	5,727	127	4,076	125	-29	-2
British Columbia	2,315	117	2,054	117	-11	0
Yukon	75	155	63	129	-16	-26
Northwest Territories	140	86	84	68	-40	-18
Nunavut	182	72	141	72	-23	0

1. Case lengths are calculated based on the number of days it takes to complete a case, from first appearance to final decision. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer case lengths and half had shorter case lengths.
Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 3
Cases completed in youth court, by type of offence, Canada, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015

Type of offence[1]	2013/2014 number[2]	2013/2014 median length of case (days)[3]	2014/2015 number[2]	2014/2015 median length of case (days)[3]	Percent change in number of cases 2013/2014 to 2014/2015 percent	Difference in median length of cases 2013/2014 to 2014/2015 days
Violent offences	**11,883**	**168**	**9,743**	**169**	**-18**	**1**
Homicide	33	611	25	420	-24	-191
Attempted murder	20	248	22	223	10	-25
Robbery	1,936	204	1,459	206	-25	2
Sexual assault	767	258	630	260	-18	2
Other sexual offences[4]	682	243	655	239	-4	-4
Major assault[5]	2,427	164	2,074	169	-15	5
Common assault	3,637	134	2,743	134	-25	0
Uttering threats	1,897	145	1,746	141	-8	-4
Criminal harassment	197	176	174	166	-12	-11
Other crimes against persons	286	182	215	206	-25	24
Property offences	**13,526**	**120**	**10,735**	**117**	**-21**	**-3**
Theft[6]	4,692	103	3,586	102	-24	-1
Break and enter	3,153	141	2,537	137	-20	-4
Fraud	470	118	364	120	-23	2
Mischief	2,514	115	2,096	120	-17	6
Possess stolen property	2,322	120	1,856	113	-20	-7
Other property crimes	375	155	296	147	-21	-9
Administration of justice offences	**4,336**	**84**	**3,520**	**84**	**-19**	**0**
Fail to appear	253	71	209	78	-17	7
Breach of probation	118	84	82	68	-31	-16
Unlawfully at large	262	8	215	5	-18	-3
Fail to comply with order	2,902	92	2,309	90	-20	-2
Other administration of justice	801	92	705	98	-12	6
Other *Criminal Code* offences	**2,193**	**148**	**2,014**	**146**	**-8**	**-2**
Weapons	1,463	148	1,372	141	-6	-7
Prostitution	11	174	16	172	45	-2
Disturbing the peace	86	103	61	92	-29	-11
Residual *Criminal Code*	633	157	565	157	-11	0
***Criminal Code* (excluding traffic)**	**31,938**	**131**	**26,012**	**132**	**-19**	**1**
***Criminal Code* traffic offences**	**656**	**120**	**541**	**97**	**-18**	**-23**
Impaired driving	321	116	242	64	-25	-52
Other *Criminal Code* traffic	335	122	299	120	-11	-2
Total *Criminal Code* offences	**32,594**	**131**	**26,553**	**131**	**-19**	**0**
Other federal statute offences	**7,780**	**70**	**6,282**	**67**	**-19**	**-3**
Drug possession[7]	..	..	1,761	99	..	..
Other drug offences[7, 8]	..	..	903	148	..	..
Youth Criminal Justice Act	3,870	42	3,450	41	-11	-1
Residual federal statutes[7]	..	..	168	39	..	..
Total offences	**40,374**	**120**	**32,835**	**120**	**-19**	**0**

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence.
2. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.
3. Case lengths are calculated based on the number of days it takes to complete a case, from first appearance to final decision. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer case lengths and half had shorter case lengths.
4. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
5. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
6. Includes, for example, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 or under, as well as motor vehicle theft.
7. Detailed counts for cases involving 'drug possession', 'other drug offences', and 'residual federal statutes' are unavailable for 2013/2014. However, counts for these offence types are included in the overall totals for 'other federal statute offences'.
8. Includes drug trafficking, production, importing and exporting.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 4
Cases completed in youth court, by type of offence, age group, and sex of the accused, Canada, 2014/2015

	Male					Female					
	12 to 15 years of age		16 to 17 years of age		Total males	12 to 15 years of age		16 to 17 years of age		Total females	Total youth
Type of offence[1]	#[2]	%	#	%	#	#[2]	%	#	%	#	
Violent offences	**2,871**	**44**	**3,660**	**56**	**6,531**	**847**	**44**	**1,062**	**56**	**1,909**	**8,440**
Homicide	6	35	11	65	17	1	50	1	50	2	19
Attempted murder	3	21	11	79	14	2	67	1	33	3	17
Robbery	417	36	745	64	1,162	43	38	69	62	112	1,274
Sexual assault	301	61	193	39	494	10	71	4	29	14	508
Other sexual offences[3]	363	65	195	35	558	17	71	7	29	24	582
Major assault[4]	527	40	777	60	1,304	172	39	274	61	446	1,750
Common assault	601	40	894	60	1,495	369	43	497	57	866	2,361
Uttering threats	537	44	672	56	1,209	191	52	175	48	366	1,575
Criminal harassment	51	44	64	56	115	33	67	16	33	49	164
Other crimes against persons	65	40	98	60	163	9	33	18	67	27	190
Property offences	**2,806**	**40**	**4,273**	**60**	**7,079**	**964**	**45**	**1,180**	**55**	**2,144**	**9,223**
Theft[5]	839	39	1,325	61	2,164	458	45	560	55	1,018	3,182
Break and enter	803	45	999	55	1,802	140	54	117	46	257	2,059
Fraud	50	22	177	78	227	17	17	86	83	103	330
Mischief	564	39	866	61	1,430	161	46	188	54	349	1,779
Possess stolen property	456	37	786	63	1,242	181	45	221	55	402	1,644
Other property offences	94	44	120	56	214	7	47	8	53	15	229
Administration of justice offences	**615**	**30**	**1,446**	**70**	**2,061**	**318**	**37**	**549**	**63**	**867**	**2,928**
Fail to appear	22	21	85	79	107	24	35	45	65	69	176
Breach of probation	11	35	20	65	31	5	50	5	50	10	41
Unlawfully at large	61	34	119	66	180	8	36	14	64	22	202
Fail to comply with order	412	31	905	69	1,317	215	38	357	62	572	1,889
Other administration of justice offences	109	26	317	74	426	66	34	128	66	194	620
Other *Criminal Code* offences	**527**	**35**	**980**	**65**	**1,507**	**75**	**37**	**130**	**63**	**205**	**1,712**
Weapons	354	35	659	65	1,013	48	42	67	58	115	1,128
Prostitution	1	11	8	89	9	0	0	7	100	7	16
Disturbing the peace	11	31	25	69	36	5	29	12	71	17	53
Residual *Criminal Code* offences	161	36	288	64	449	22	33	44	67	66	515
***Criminal Code* (excluding traffic)**	**6,819**	**40**	**10,359**	**60**	**17,178**	**2,204**	**43**	**2,921**	**57**	**5,125**	**22,303**
***Criminal Code* traffic offences**	**60**	**15**	**329**	**85**	**389**	**15**	**16**	**77**	**84**	**92**	**481**
Impaired driving	11	7	150	93	161	5	9	51	91	56	217
Other *Criminal Code* traffic offences	49	21	179	79	228	10	28	26	72	36	264
Total *Criminal Code* offences	**6,879**	**39**	**10,688**	**61**	**17,567**	**2,219**	**43**	**2,998**	**57**	**5,217**	**22,784**
Other federal statute offences	**1,101**	**26**	**3,139**	**74**	**4,240**	**407**	**36**	**719**	**64**	**1,126**	**5,366**
Drug possession	331	23	1,079	77	1,410	114	42	155	58	269	1,679
Other drug offences[6]	174	25	530	75	704	32	30	76	70	108	812
Youth Criminal Justice Act	560	28	1,465	72	2,025	242	34	473	66	715	2,740
Residual federal statute offences	36	36	65	64	101	19	56	15	44	34	135
Total offences	**7,980**	**37**	**13,827**	**63**	**21,807**	**2,626**	**41**	**3,717**	**59**	**6,343**	**28,150**

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence.
2. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.
3. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
4. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
5. Includes, for example, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 or under, as well as motor vehicle theft.
6. Includes drug trafficking, production, importing and exporting.

Note: Includes information on accused persons aged 12 to 17 years of age at the time of the offence. Excludes cases in which the age and/or the sex of the accused was unknown. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. Information on the sex of the accused is not available from Manitoba as of 2005/2006.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 5
Cases completed in youth court, by type of offence and decision, Canada, 2014/2015

	Guilty[2]		Stayed[3]		Withdrawn[4]		Acquitted		Other decisions[5]		Total cases	
Type of offence[1]	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Violent offences	**5,405**	**55**	**1,870**	**19**	**2,134**	**22**	**269**	**3**	**65**	**1**	**9,743**	**100**
Homicide	15	60	2	8	3	12	1	4	4	16	25	100
Attempted murder	10	45	3	14	8	36	0	0	1	5	22	100
Robbery	801	55	125	9	489	34	35	2	9	1	1,459	100
Sexual assault	375	60	86	14	119	19	43	7	7	1	630	100
Other sexual offences[6]	397	61	133	20	84	13	36	5	5	1	655	100
Major assault[7]	1,279	62	342	16	396	19	47	2	10	0	2,074	100
Common assault	1,376	50	660	24	654	24	41	1	12	0	2,743	100
Uttering threats	955	55	436	25	299	17	45	3	11	1	1,746	100
Criminal harassment	78	45	46	26	37	21	12	7	1	1	174	100
Other crimes against persons	119	55	37	17	45	21	9	4	5	2	215	100
Property offences	**5,408**	**50**	**2,870**	**27**	**2,336**	**22**	**80**	**1**	**41**	**0**	**10,735**	**100**
Theft[8]	1,620	45	1,071	30	853	24	24	1	18	1	3,586	100
Break and enter	1,597	63	536	21	379	15	18	1	7	0	2,537	100
Fraud	228	63	80	22	53	15	3	1	0	0	364	100
Mischief	975	47	599	29	501	24	13	1	8	0	2,096	100
Possess stolen property	821	44	507	27	503	27	18	1	7	0	1,856	100
Other property crimes	167	56	77	26	47	16	4	1	1	0	296	100
Administration of justice offences	**2,214**	**63**	**508**	**14**	**766**	**22**	**15**	**0**	**17**	**0**	**3,520**	**100**
Fail to appear	81	39	39	19	86	41	0	0	3	1	209	100
Breach of probation	49	60	11	13	21	26	0	0	1	1	82	100
Unlawfully at large	198	92	5	2	12	6	0	0	0	0	215	100
Fail to comply with order	1,398	61	344	15	544	24	13	1	10	0	2,309	100
Other administration of justice	488	69	109	15	103	15	2	0	3	0	705	100
Other *Criminal Code* offences	**1,163**	**58**	**426**	**21**	**370**	**18**	**34**	**2**	**21**	**1**	**2,014**	**100**
Weapons	800	58	259	19	292	21	15	1	6	0	1,372	100
Prostitution	7	44	2	13	6	38	1	6	0	0	16	100
Disturbing the peace	26	43	19	31	15	25	0	0	1	2	61	100
Residual *Criminal Code*	330	58	146	26	57	10	18	3	14	2	565	100
***Criminal Code* (excluding traffic)**	**14,190**	**55**	**5,674**	**22**	**5,606**	**22**	**398**	**2**	**144**	**1**	**26,012**	**100**
***Criminal Code* traffic offences**	**434**	**80**	**30**	**6**	**61**	**11**	**15**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**541**	**100**
Impaired driving	200	83	7	3	23	10	11	5	1	0	242	100
Other *Criminal Code* traffic	234	78	23	8	38	13	4	1	0	0	299	100
Total *Criminal Code* offences	**14,624**	**55**	**5,704**	**21**	**5,667**	**21**	**413**	**2**	**145**	**1**	**26,553**	**100**
Other federal statute offences	**4,080**	**65**	**1,026**	**16**	**1,095**	**17**	**54**	**1**	**27**	**0**	**6,282**	**100**

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 5 — continued
Cases completed in youth court, by type of offence and decision, Canada, 2014/2015

	Guilty[2]		Stayed[3]		Withdrawn[4]		Acquitted		Other decisions[5]		Total cases	
Type of offence[1]	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Drug possession	676	38	587	33	477	27	21	1	0	0	1,761	100
Other drug offences[9]	511	57	152	17	225	25	13	1	2	0	903	100
Youth Criminal Justice Act	2,765	80	271	8	370	11	19	1	25	1	3,450	100
Residual federal statutes	128	76	16	10	23	14	1	1	0	0	168	100
Total offences	**18,704**	**57**	**6,730**	**20**	**6,762**	**21**	**467**	**1**	**172**	**1**	**32,835**	**100**

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence.
2. Guilty findings include guilty of the offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. Also includes guilty pleas, and cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.
3. Includes stays as well as court referrals to alternative or extrajudicial measures and restorative justice programs.
4. Includes withdrawals, dismissals and discharges at preliminary inquiry.
5. Includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible and waived out of province or territory. Also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases that raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.
6. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
7. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
8. Includes, for example, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 or under, as well as motor vehicle theft.
9. Includes drug trafficking, production, importing and exporting.

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 6
Guilty cases completed in youth court, by type of offence and selected sentence, Canada, 2014/2015

	Total guilty cases	Custody[2]			Probation[3]			Community Service Order	
Type of offence[1]	number	number	percent	median length (days)	number	percent	median length (days)	number	percent
Violent offences	**5,405**	**898**	**17**	**90**	**3,564**	**66**	**365**	**1,099**	**20**
Homicide[4]	15	7	47	468	3	20	365	0	0
Attempted murder	10	10	100	585	5	50	363	0	0
Robbery	801	308	38	120	541	68	365	139	17
Sexual assault	375	37	10	180	269	72	540	37	10
Other sexual offences[5]	397	34	9	176	292	74	365	77	19
Major assault[6]	1,279	251	20	80	871	68	365	288	23
Common assault	1,376	95	7	30	779	57	365	211	15
Uttering threats	955	124	13	40	652	68	360	275	29
Criminal harassment	78	6	8	18	61	78	365	29	37
Other crimes against persons	119	26	22	152	91	76	270	43	36
Property offences	**5,408**	**631**	**12**	**50**	**3,453**	**64**	**365**	**1,333**	**25**
Theft[7]	1,620	175	11	32	894	55	360	409	25
Break and enter	1,597	212	13	90	1,185	74	365	438	27
Fraud	228	29	13	43	159	70	360	61	27
Mischief	975	70	7	29	564	58	365	201	21
Possess stolen property	821	129	16	40	536	65	360	188	23
Other property crimes	167	16	10	70	115	69	365	36	22
Administration of justice offences	**2,214**	**462**	**21**	**20**	**981**	**44**	**365**	**409**	**18**
Fail to appear	81	8	10	16	30	37	365	8	10
Breach of probation	49	7	14	6	23	47	365	10	20
Unlawfully at large	198	128	65	20	36	18	365	36	18
Fail to comply with order	1,398	225	16	18	633	45	365	235	17
Other administration of justice	488	94	19	23	259	53	360	120	25
Other *Criminal Code* offences	**1,163**	**182**	**16**	**78**	**740**	**64**	**360**	**301**	**26**
Weapons	800	135	17	60	496	62	360	133	17
Prostitution	7	4	57	249	5	71	365	0	0
Disturbing the peace	26	0	0	...	7	27	180	5	19
Residual *Criminal Code*	330	43	13	120	232	70	306	163	49
***Criminal Code* (excluding traffic)**	**14,190**	**2,173**	**15**	**59**	**8,738**	**62**	**365**	**3,142**	**22**
***Criminal Code* traffic offences**	**434**	**46**	**11**	**80**	**200**	**46**	**365**	**88**	**20**
Impaired driving	200	4	2	49	58	29	365	36	18
Other *Criminal Code* traffic	234	42	18	90	142	61	365	52	22
Total *Criminal Code* offences	**14,624**	**2,219**	**15**	**60**	**8,938**	**61**	**365**	**3,230**	**22**
Other federal statute offences	**4,080**	**574**	**14**	**18**	**1,722**	**42**	**270**	**1,358**	**33**
Drug possession	676	13	2	15	323	48	180	272	40
Other drug offences[8]	511	29	6	110	398	78	360	229	45
Youth Criminal Justice Act	2,765	524	19	14	981	35	270	845	31
Residual federal statutes	128	8	6	80	20	16	360	12	9
Total offences	**18,704**	**2,793**	**15**	**40**	**10,660**	**57**	**360**	**4,588**	**25**

... not applicable
1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence.
2. Custodial sentence lengths exclude time spent in custody prior to sentencing and/or the amount of credit awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. Also excludes cases in which the length of the custody sentence was unknown or indeterminate. Length of custody data are not available for Manitoba data as of 2005/2006.
3. Excludes cases in which the length of the probation sentence was unknown. Length of probation data are not available for Manitoba data as of 2005/2006.
4. The number of custody sentences for homicide may be under-reported due to the unavailability of information on credit for time served in pre-sentence custody.
5. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
6. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
7. Includes, for example, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 or under, as well as motor vehicle theft.
8. Includes drug trafficking, production, importing and exporting.

Note: Cases may involve more than one type of sentence and/or other sentences not shown, therefore, percentages do not total 100%. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer sentence lengths and half had shorter sentence lengths.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.